



Statehouse Statements

State Senator Earline Rogers

Senate Minority Assistant Floor Leader

Representing Senate District 3



State Senator, Assistant Minority Floor Leader

Earline Rogers

Representing portions of Lake County

Democrat - District 3

Term expires: 2008

A retired public school teacher and a true trail blazer, State Senator Earline Rogers is widely recognized as one of the Indiana General Assembly's most effective leaders.

Elected to the State Senate in 1990, Rogers is the Senate Democrat Caucus' Assistant Minority Floor Leader – the highest elective office held by a woman or African American in the history of the Indiana General Assembly.

In the Senate Rogers serves as the ranking minority member on both the Governmental Affairs & Interstate Cooperation and the Appointment & Claims committees. She also is a member of the Homeland Security, Utilities & Public Policy; Rules & Legislative Procedure; and the Education & Career Development standing committees.

Prior to joining the State Senate, Rogers served eight years in the House of Representatives and two years on the Gary Common Council, where she was the first woman elected president.

Among her many legislative accomplishments, Rogers was instrumental in raising the minimum age to which the death penalty can be applied in Indiana to 18 years of age. She filed the first bill to create casino gaming in Indiana and co-authored riverboat gaming legislation, which has become a billion dollar industry for Indiana. Most recently she was a leader in the passage and implementation of the legislation creating the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority.

Rogers has also been at the forefront of major education reform, including the A-Plus education reform package, the implementation of ISTEP, the state's tough school accountability law as well as legislation to create charter schools.

A life-long resident of Gary, Rogers spent 38 years teaching in the Gary Public School system and today works as an education consultant. She was an honor student at Roosevelt High School and senior class president. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Indiana University in Bloomington.

Senator Rogers and her husband Louis, a retired firefighter, reside in Gary and have two grown children.